

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) polypeptides comprising a fragment of at least 18 consecutive amino acids of the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1;
 - b) polypeptides comprising an amino acid sequence which has an identity of at least 70% to the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1; and
 - c) polypeptides consisting of at least 8 contiguous amino acids of the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1.
2. (Original) A polypeptide according to claim 1, comprising a fragment of the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1 wherein said fragment is capable of binding to IgE antibodies from an individual being allergic against mugwort pollen.
3. (Currently Amended) A polypeptide ~~according to claim 1 or 2~~, comprising the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1.
4. (Currently Amended) A polypeptide ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 3~~, characterized in that it is capable of binding to IgE antibodies from an individual being allergic against ragweed pollen.
5. (Currently Amended) A polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of
 - a) polynucleotides encoding the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1;
 - b) polynucleotides encoding a polypeptide as claimed in any one of claims ~~1 to 4~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 19, and 20; and

- c) polynucleotides comprising a nucleotide sequence which has an identity of at least 75% to the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:2;

or the complementary strand of such polynucleotide.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ polynucleotide ~~according to~~ of claim 5 comprising the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:2 or the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:3.

7. (Currently Amended) A plasmid or a vector comprising a polynucleotide as ~~claimed in~~ of claim 5 ~~or 6~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A cell containing a plasmid or a vector ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 7 ~~or 21~~ and/or a polynucleotide as claimed in claim 5 or 6.

9. (Currently Amended) A cell according to claim 8, which is selected from the group consisting of plant cells, bacterial cells and yeast cells.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~process~~ method for the preparation of a polypeptide ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4~~ comprising ~~the step of~~ culturing cells as claimed in claim 8, 9, 22, 23, 24, or 25 under conditions appropriate for the expression of the polypeptide and optionally subsequently recovering the polypeptide.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A process according to~~ The method of claim 10, wherein the cells are opened and the polypeptide is recovered using affinity chromatography.

12. (Currently Amended) An antibody capable of binding to a polypeptide as ~~claimed in~~ of any one of claims ~~1 to 4~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 19, and 20.

13. (Original) An antibody ~~according to~~ of claim 12, which is capable of binding to one or several of the polypeptides selected from the group consisting of Amb a 1.1, Amb a 1.2, Amb a 1.3 and Amb a 2.

14. (Original) An antibody ~~according to~~ of claim 12, which does not bind to any one of the polypeptides selected from the group consisting of Amb a 1.1, Amb a 1.2, Amb a 1.3 and Amb a 2.

15. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polypeptide as claimed in any one of claims ~~1 to 4 and/or a polynucleotide as claimed in claim 5 or 6 and/or an antibody as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 14~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 19, and 20.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of treating, preventing, or diagnosing an allergic disorder by administering a medicament comprising a polypeptide as ~~The use of polypeptides as~~ claimed in any one of claims ~~1 to 4~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 19, and 20 ~~or a polynucleotide as claimed in claim 5 or 5 or an antibody as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 14 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or the prevention or the diagnosis of an allergic disorder.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~A use according to~~ claim 16 wherein the medicament is administered to an individual to be desensitized.

18. (Currently Amended) A kit ~~useful for the diagnosis, the treatment, and/or the prevention of an allergic disorder comprising a polypeptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4~~ 1, 2, 3, 4, 19, and 20 ~~and/or a polynucleotide as claimed in claim 5 or 6 and/or an antibody as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 14.~~

19. (New) The polypeptide of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide is capable of binding to IgE antibodies from an individual being allergic against ragweed pollen.

20. (New) The polypeptide of claim 3, wherein the polypeptide is capable of binding to IgE antibodies from an individual being allergic against ragweed pollen.

21. (New) A plasmid or a vector comprising a polynucleotide of claim 6.

22. (New) A cell containing a polynucleotide as claimed in claim 5.

23. (New) A cell containing a polynucleotide as claimed in claim 6.
24. (New) A cell according to claim 23, which is selected from the group consisting of plant cells, bacterial cells and yeast cells.
25. (New) A cell according to claim 24, which is selected from the group consisting of plant cells, bacterial cells and yeast cells.
26. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polynucleotide as claimed in claim 5.
27. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polynucleotide as claimed in claim 6.
28. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody as claimed in claim 12.
29. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody as claimed in claims 13 or 14.
30. (New) A method of treating, preventing, or diagnosing an allergic disorder comprising administering a polynucleotide of claim 5.
31. (New) A method of treating, preventing, or diagnosing an allergic disorder comprising administering a polynucleotide of claim 6.
32. (New) A method of treating, preventing, or diagnosing an allergic disorder comprising administering an antibody of claim 12.
33. (New) A method of treating, preventing, or diagnosing an allergic disorder comprising administering an antibody of claim 13 or 14.

34. (New) A kit for the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of an allergic disorder comprising a polynucleotide as claimed in claim 5.

35. (New) A kit for the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of an allergic disorder comprising a polynucleotide as claimed in claim 6.

36. (New) A kit for the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of an allergic disorder comprising an antibody of claim 12.

37. (New) A kit for the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of an allergic disorder comprising an antibody of claim 13 or 14.